

AGENDA

Common Understanding: Open Dialogue on Open Standards

Regional Conference on Open Standards: the Key to an Open ICT Ecosystem

Sofitel Central Plaza Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

Chairs

Shahid Akhtar, Programme Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (UNDP-APDIP)

Thaweesak Koanantakool, Director, National Electronics and Computer Technology Development Agency (NECTEC) of Thailand.

Co-chairs

Nah Soo Hoe, Advisor, UNDP-APDIP

Sunil Abraham, Manager, International Open Source Network (IOSN/APDIP)

The purpose of these dialogue sessions is to explore policy issues and openly discuss and share practices, to come to some common understanding and possible future collaboration.

Documentation for the policy dialogue includes this agenda, the attached background note and list of participants, and discussion summaries (to be produced after each session). We are not planning to distribute any other documentation. If you would like to share links to resources, please email the URL and a two sentence description to Phet Sayo (phet@apdip.net) and we will compile these in one list.

Also, we do not encourage any slide presentations. Rather, we wish to place the emphasis on the discussion itself - and move the dialogue forward, topic-by-topic. Indeed, we are looking forward to a free-flowing discussion carried out much in the manner of a 'brainstorming'. Therefore, we hope that all participants will make only brief and to the point interventions and not take opportunities to spell out already well carved out institutional and other position statements.

Session I: 2 May, 13:30 - 17:00

Meeting room: Vibhavadee Ballroom A

The first session will be used to focus on clarifying the spectrum of openness and the defining elements of truly open standards. Items for discussion will be tabled. Participants will be invited to contribute additional items, and then (time permitting), each item will be explored in a logical sequence.

The following is the tentative agenda arranged by discussion items, which include feedback provided by participants.

- Open standards attributes
 - What exactly do we mean by 'open standards'? What are the necessary attributes of open standards?
 - Should open standards be accredited by ISO or is it better to gain the wider de facto status of acceptance by the public?

- Who will be the authoritative steward of open standards? How will these standards be managed?
- Strategic planning and architecture frameworks based on open standards
 - Why should open standards frameworks be considered?
 - What are the best practices? What are the institutional mechanisms and processes that need to be put in place?
 - What is the larger goal served by open standards?
 - What are the other complementary ways to achieve interoperability?
 - Do proprietary standards imply “closed” or the opposite of interoperability?
 - How to ensure compliance to standards?
- Procurement policies
 - Why is there a need for government procurement policies to favour open standards deployment?
 - How can Governments promote the maximum level of interoperability or ideal interoperability solutions in a given situation?
- ICT innovation and development
 - What role may government have to play (as user, consumer, and promoter)?
 - Does the industry stand to benefit from adopting open standards?
 - Encouraging, building and sustaining the community on open standards - how can we stimulate grassroots movements on open standards, especially in this region?
- Intellectual property
 - Where and how does IPR intersect with open standards?
 - What are the IPR policies of well-known standards development organizations?
 - What legal framework or public policies are most appropriate for innovation and protection?
- Free/Open Source Software
 - Where and how does free/open source software intersect with Open standards? Are open standards and open source software the same thing?
 - Is there a need for policies on open standards to be inclusive of policies on free/open source software?
- Preliminary conclusions
 - What can we conclude from the first session?
 - What do we want to highlight for further discussion?

Session II: 4 May, 15:15 - 16:15

Meeting room: Ladprao Suite on Mezzanine

- Brief discussion on the issues
- Conclusions and the next steps

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